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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a HIV infection in a subject, comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of at least one pharmacologically acceptable oligonucleotide at least 30 nucleotides in length, wherein said oligonucleotide has~~have~~ an anti-HIV activity and wherein the anti-HIV activity of said oligonucleotide occurs principally by a sequence independent mode of action.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is a human.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): An antiviral pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one pharmacologically acceptable, antiviral oligonucleotide at least 29 nucleotides in length, wherein said composition is approved for use in humans against HIV and the antiviral activity of said oligonucleotide occurs principally by a non-sequence complementary mode of action; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The antiviral composition of claim 3, adapted for a delivery by oral ingestion.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The antiviral composition of claim 3, adapted for a delivery enterally.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The antiviral composition of claim 3, adapted for a delivery by injection.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The antiviral composition of claim 3, adapted for a delivery by inhalation.

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Claim 8 (withdrawn): The antiviral composition of claim 3, adapted for a delivery topically.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The antiviral pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein said composition further comprises a delivery system.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The antiviral pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein said composition further comprises a liposomal formulation.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The antiviral pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein said composition further comprises at least one other antiviral drug in combination.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A kit comprising at least one anti-HIV oligonucleotide or anti-HIV oligonucleotide formulation in a labeled package, wherein said oligonucleotide is at least 29 nucleotides in length, the anti-HIV activity of said oligonucleotide occurs principally by a non-sequence complementary mode of action, and the label on said package indicates that said anti-HIV oligonucleotide can be used against HIV.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The kit of claim 12, wherein said kit is approved by a regulatory agency for use in humans.

Claim 14 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein said at least one antiviral oligonucleotide comprises at least one antiviral randomer oligonucleotide.

Claim 15 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein said oligonucleotide is not complementary to any portion of the genomic sequence of HIV.

Claim 16 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein said formulation has an $IC_{50}$ for HIV of 0.05 $\mu$M or less.

Claim 17 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein said oligonucleotide is at least 40 nucleotides in length.

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Claim 18 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide comprises at least one modification to its chemical structure.

Claim 19 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide comprises at least one phosphorothioated linkage.

Claim 20 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide comprises at least one phosphorothioated linkage and is in a formulation comprising a delivery system.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide comprises at least one 2'-modification to the ribose moiety.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide comprises at least one methylphosphonate linkage.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide comprises at least one phosphorodithioated linkage.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide comprises at least one phosphorodithioated linkage and is in a formulation comprising a delivery system.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein each said oligonucleotide is a concatemer consisting of two or more oligonucleotide sequences joined by a linker.

Claim 26 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein said oligonucleotide is linked or conjugated at one or more nucleotide residues, to a molecule modifying the characteristics of the oligonucleotide to obtain one or more

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characteristics selected from the group consisting of higher stability, lower serum interaction, higher cellular uptake, higher viral protein interaction, an improved ability to be formulated for delivery, a detectable signal, higher antiviral activity, better pharmacokinetic properties, specific tissue distribution, lower toxicity.

Claim 27 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein said oligonucleotide is double stranded.

Claim 28 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein said oligonucleotide binds to one or more viral components.

Claim 29 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, wherein at least a portion of the sequence of said oligonucleotide is derived from a viral genome.

Claim 30 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 1, 3, or 12, comprising a mixture of at least two different antiviral oligonucleotides.

Claim 31 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 30, wherein a plurality of said different oligonucleotides are at least 29 nucleotides in length.

Claim 32 (original): The method, pharmaceutical composition, or kit of claim 30, wherein a plurality of said different oligonucleotides are at least 40 nucleotides in length.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): A method for selecting an antiviral oligonucleotide for use as an anti-HIV agent, comprising synthesizing a plurality of different oligonucleotides, wherein at least one of said different oligonucleotides is at least 29 nucleotides in length; testing said oligonucleotides for activity in inhibiting the ability of HIV to produce infectious virions, selecting said oligonucleotide having a pharmaceutically acceptable level of activity for use as an anti-HIV agent.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein said different oligonucleotides comprise randomers of different lengths.

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Claim 35 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein said oligonucleotides comprise a set of oligonucleotides of different length, each oligonucleotide in said set comprising the sequence of the shortest oligonucleotide in said set.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein said different oligonucleotides comprise a plurality of oligonucleotides comprising a randomer segment at least 6 nucleotides in length.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein said different oligonucleotides are not complementary to any HIV mRNA sequence.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a HIV infection in a subject, comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of at least one pharmacologically acceptable oligonucleotide randomer at least 10 nucleotides in length, wherein the anti-HIV activity of said randomer occurs principally by a non-sequence complementary mode of action.